

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



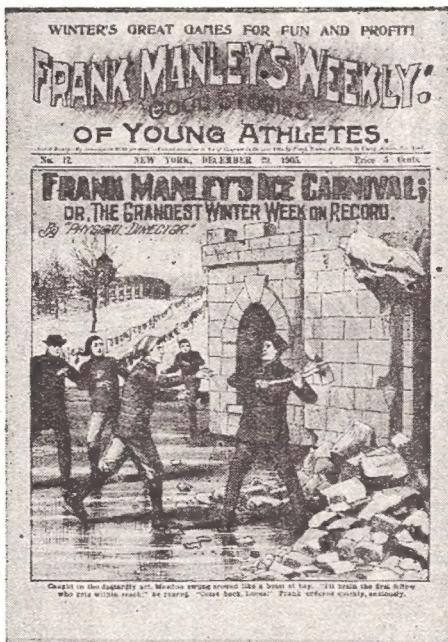
A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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## Membership List, 1966



### DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 73

#### FRANK MANLEY WEEKLY

Frank Tousey's short lived imitation of Frank Merriwell. Began September 8, 1905, and ended with No. 32 on April 13, 1906. It was a continuation of Young Athlete's Weekly which also ran for only 32 numbers. The stories were written by Harrie Irving Hancock. Brilliant colored covers, size 8x11 with 32 pages.

## The Merriwell Newspaper "Comic" Strip

By Gerald J. McIntosh

There was published back in the 1930's a Merriwelliana item which I doubt a lot of present day Round-Uppers know about. In fact, I doubt if the Round-Up readers of the period, many of them, knew of or read it. This was the so-called "comic" strip about Frank Merriwell. It was produced by The Central Press Association and the cartoonist was Jack Wilhelm. Gilbert Patten, himself, is said to have furnished the lay-out for the series.

First mention of this feature appeared in the Round-Up for March, 1936, No. 48, in an article by the late Robert H. (Bob) Smeltzer, in which he painted a glowing picture of what the series was going to be, etc. However his dates do not agree with the dates of the strip as it appeared. He was writing in March of 1936, and said the first of the series would appear on Monday, Feb. 3rd. At any rate, the set I have began publication on July 20, 1931, and ran for 936 days, (no Sundays), when Frank bowed out. The strip continued until reaching No. 1260, with Chip Collins taking over as the leading character. Last appearance of Frank was in strip No. 936 on July 14, 1934.

The strip followed the Tip Top Weekly pattern as a rule but there were many variances. From No. 1 to around 288 there were Frank's first days at Fardale. There was his arrival at the station and the fight with Bart Hodge in the matter of the peanut boy, Tad Jones. Their famous fight in Chadwick's pasture, and the rescue of Inza Burrage from the mad dog. Farmer John Snodd, his wife and their daughter, Belinda, also appear as does

several of Frank's chums, among them Barney Mulloy, Ned Gray, Sam Winslow, Paul Rains, and his two enemies, Hugh Bascomb and Leslie Gage. There is the fencing duel between Frank and Gage. The three Professors Gunn, Jenks and Scotch appear in the strip. Baseball and football predominated as sports.

Starting with strip No. 289 and going to 364 Frank and Prof. Scotch took a trip out West. It took him all this time, 75 (newspaper) days to finish off "Black Harry," the outlaw, and train robber who was his double, a feat he did in one TIP TOP, No. 21. Bunker Dawson and his daughter, Betty, were there, as was also Sheriff Hank Kildare who saved Frank from a band of lynchers. The name of the Oklahoma town of El Reno was changed to that of Red Valley.

After his adventures in Oklahoma Frank returns to Fardale and his school life at the Academy are again chronicled up to around strip No. 600. It was during this period that Elsie Bellwood and her father were rescued from the Captain's wrecked steamer as recounted in Tip Top No. 12. The rivalry between Inza and Elsie for Frank's attentions began at once, but Elsie soon faded out of the picture. However, much later on in the series she appeared again, as will be seen.

Around No. 600, Frank took a furlough from Fardale and he and Prof. Scotch made a visit to Frank's old home at Bloomfield. In Tip Top Weekly we were told about this visit in No. 9 of the Weekly. Uncle Asher Merriwell, Frank's guardian in bad health had called this meeting in order to appoint Prof. Scotch the guard-

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ian. Here Frank met his father who was believed to be dead, as he had disappeared when Frank was too young to remember him. He was a man of mystery as Tip Top had pointed out. Years before he had owned a mysterious ring which he had lost. This ring had been acquired by Frank as has been told in Tip Top. Some engravings on the ring were supposed to be the key to a rich mine in Mexico. Frank was wearing the ring and gave it to his father who immediately disappeared again. At the Bloomfield home we meet "Toots," the colored boy who became a regular character in Tip Top Weekly. Frank and Prof. Scotch stayed at Bloomfield a few days, then in strip No. 613 departed on a motor trip vacation to the Southwest and Old Mexico.

Frank and the Professor eventually land in the Mexican town of Las Medidas in the State of Sonora. Here occurs the adventures Frank had with the villain Porfias Del Norte, but in this case his first name was Manuel. He has a pretty daughter named Juanita. Contrary to the course laid in the Tip Top Weekly, Del Norte was at first friendly with Frank but he is in league with bandit chief Guerrero. The mysterious ring is the theme of this short series of strips. Frank and Prof. Scotch are captured, escape and are recaptured three or four times. Oddly enough, Frank runs into Elsie Bellwood who is down there visiting her Uncle, who has mining interests near. She helps rescue Frank from one of his captures. Frank meets his father, who has been held prisoner in a dungeon in connection with the ring. He is rescued and released by Frank and again disappears. A very mysterious man indeed was Frank Merriwell's father! Finally Elsie, who was also captured escapes and brings soldiers to the rescue. The band of bandits are wiped out and Frank and Prof. Scotch announce they will return to New Haven, where Frank announces his intention to enter Yale. Elsie decides to remain with her uncle.

In strip No. 673 of this series, dated Sept. 11, 1933, Frank arrived in New

Haven to take the entrance exams for Yale. His Yale career came to a close in strip No. 895, May 28, 1934, when he joined some friends on a treasure hunt. Unlike Tip Top Weekly, he was met at Yale by Bart Hodge, who also planned to enter college with Frank. But Hodge failed in his examinations and wasn't admitted for the first term. Frank soon met Harry Rattieton who became his roommate just as in Tip Top. Also, Bruce Browning the sophomore was there. Inza Burrage was making her home at New Haven at the time. Frank soon made a bitter enemy in one Tom Stirling and they never became friends. One of Tom's cronies was Roland Ditson, a character in Tip Top who was Frank's enemy at Yale.

Bart Hodge passed the exams and entered the college at mid-term. Strangely enough, it developed that Bart and Tom Stirling were cousins, and he and Frank were at "outs" with each other for a while over this but it soon blew over and they were good friends again. Strange also was the fact that Inza Burrage "fell" for Tom Stirling for a while but he soon tried to pull a fast one on her, and that was the end of that. There was another girl in New Haven, Lucile Carver, that caused a rift between Inza and Frank that also faded away. There was plenty of football and baseball while at Yale and despite the machinations of Tom Stirling against Frank, Yale downed both Harvard and Princeton.

Frank went to Yale apparently well fixed for funds for his education. But soon came the bad news from Prof. Scotch, his guardian, that the Company from which he received his income had failed so Frank had to go to work. Instead of working for a railroad or touring with a stage play, Frank elected to go to work in New Haven instead and earn the money for his education himself. He did odd jobs. First, he was a furnace tender, then did some Latin tutoring for other students. Then he became a service station attendant, and wound up by doing some secretarial work, which

enabled him to hang on in school.

Frank was invited by a friend to accompany him on a treasure hunt. The circumstances were rather fantastic. This friend owned a ruby with markings on it similar to those on the ring that figured so prominently in the early Tip Top stories. A ship was chartered and the cruise begun for Bat Island where the treasure was supposed to be. There was trouble with the crew as is usually the case on such a cruise. Two of the crew who were more or less ruffians tried to steal the map made from the markings on the ring and there were several fights. But before the ship could reach the island a seaplane landed with a message for Frank. It was from Frank's father, saying he had just gotten back from Africa with a fortune. And asked that Frank return at once and join him in America. This was most unusual as no such thing occurred in Tip Top Weekly. Frank's father was a wanderer, but he had never been in Africa so far as we knew. So Frank left the ship and boarded the seaplane, leaving the party. We saw no more of him nor heard of him any more in the strip. What a spot to leave him in.

The strip continued on, however, and the ship continued on till it reached the island. Here they landed and on the island they found a lone young man, Chip Collins, who had apparently been marooned there some time. He became the hero of the strip to the end, and the adventures were exciting, but Chip Collins was not of Tip Top, so there I lost interest.

The contents of this newspaper strip from strip No. 817 to No. 882 were used as the material for one of the BIG LITTLE BOOKS which had such big sales in the five-and-dime stores in the 1930's and published by the Whitman Pub. Co. of Racine, Wisconsin. It was published in 1936. I have a copy of it. It is quite an oddity as they are not published any more. The text was changed somewhat to show Frank as just entering Yale as a Freshman, whereas in the strip, Frank had already been there quite

a while. Some of the illustrations were left out. Frank, Bart and Bruce were there, and also Inza Burrage. And in the book, Frank drove a milk wagon to help make his way through college.

Much more could be written about this newspaper strip on Frank Merriwell, but I chose only to give a brief outline of it and to record the high spots of it. Though interesting enough it did not appeal to me as a whole because it was too "modern." There was a theme of "gangsterism" in both the Fardale and Yale series which was not characteristic of the stories 'n Tip Top Weekly and the abrupt and sudden manner in which Frank was taken out of the story was disappointing and exasperating. Nevertheless, it is a Merriwell item of great value and I intend to preserve my set. It did not receive much publicity. I wonder how many Round-Uppers cut out and saved the strip on Merriwell. For the record, let's hear from any others who own a set of it. The one I have is the only one I positively know of.

OTHER MERRIWELL "COMICS." Street & Smith, in their Shadow Comics Magazine in 1940, had four (monthly) issues that had sections devoted to Frank Merriwell. There might have been more but four is what I have and is all that I know about.

I am sure most of us today know of the bi-monthly FRANK MERRIWELL AT YALE Comic Mag. started by the Charlote Comic Groups, of Derby, Conn., in 1955. It promised to become an interesting little Magazine, but it folded after four numbers had been issued.

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 224. R. B. Hudson, Box 378, Dallas, Ga. 30132  
 225. Julius R. Chenu, 16 Farragut Road, Merrick, L. I., N. Y.  
 226. Mrs. Merlene Eby, North Center St., Box 66, Seville, Ohio 44273  
 227. Mrs. June M. Spencer, 6525 Denison Blvd., Parma Heights, Ohio 44130  
 228. Burt C. Van Devier, 2463 Second St., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221  
 229. Detroit Public Library, Rare Books, Per., 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48202  
 230. William H. Petrecca, 2026 Delancey St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103  
 231. Peter Van Note, 114 East 90th St., New York, N. Y. 10028

For the first time in three years there was an increase in subscriptions this year. The net increase was 21. Three members died; John A. Reischmann, Joseph J. Myler and Levi Morgan. Eight dropped for lack of interest: Roy E. Swanstrom, Perry Gianakos, George L. Setman, Jerry R. Hale, William Dowdy, Frances Aaron, Lyle Kenyon Engel and J. A. Stacy. Thirty-two new members were added to the subscription list beginning with No. 200 above.

#### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

113. Morris Teicher, 275 Livonia Ave., Apt. 8A, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11212.  
 (Change of address.)  
 107. Charles Rothstein, Poinsettia Hotel, 117 N. E. 2nd St., Miami, Fla. 33132  
 (Change of address)  
 85. C. H. Camille Whitehead, 30 Bourne Ave., Somerset, Mass. 02726  
 (Change of address)

Dear Ed: You never know where novels will turn up. Here in Mexico City, I just bought two bound volumes containing the first 50 numbers of Old Sleuth Library (Black and white).—Ross Crawford, Brooklyn, N. Y., vacationing in Mexico.

Dear Ed: I see a few more members each month, hope there will be many more. I would like to see the Round-Up grow into something big.—Frank

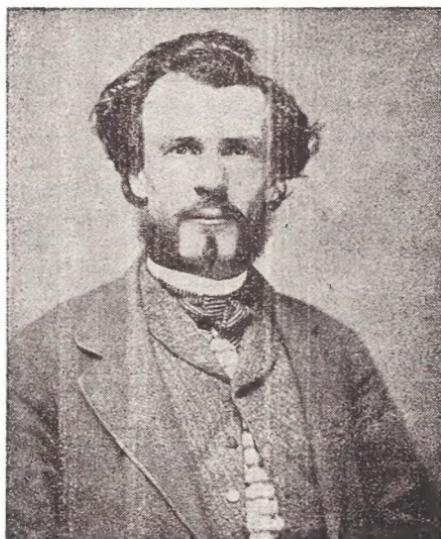
Schott, Milwaukee, Wis. (No more than I.)

Back numbers Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup, Nos. 1 to 237 for sale. Some reprints, all interesting, 12 for \$1.00 or all 237 numbers for \$18.00 postpaid.

Ralph F. Cummings  
 161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

## GENEALOGY OF WILLIAM THORP

By Roy B. Van Devier



Dr. Lucien G. Thorp: No. A-2

Lucien Grenville Thorp (No. A-2), was born in Bath township, Summit County, Ohio, August 6, 1835. He married (1) Louisa Brown in Canada 1852, (2) Charlotte Dean at Akron, Ohio, November 11, 1869. His second wife (Charlotte) born April 10, 1846; died at Akron, Ohio, August 25, 1879. He married (3) Miss Ellen Bishop at Bath, Ohio, Sept. 8, 1886.

Lucien G. Thorp, was a Doctor of Dental Surgery. Dr. Thorp died at Petosky, Michigan, Sept. 9, 1902. He is buried beside his second wife (Charlotte) in the Glendale Cemetery, at Akron, Ohio.

His will was dated August 1, 1894:

I, Lucien G. Thorp, of lawful age, do hereby make and publish this my last will and testament.

I give to my wife Ellen Thorp, all of my house-hold goods and the use of my books and pictures, also the use of the house and lot on which we now live with all the out-houses there—belonging on lots 68-69-70 and 57 feet of lot 71 in tract 6, so long as she remains my widow, also the control of the water supply on lot deeded to me by John Dean.

It is my will, that my son Don Thorp, and Daisy Thorp, have the privilege of residing with my wife until my son arrives at the age of twenty-one years, and as long as my daughter remains unmarried, providing my wife remains my widow. And it is my further wish that they live together each paying one-third of all taxes against said property; also one-third of the house-hold expenses and one-third of the costs of keeping said property in good repair.

I give and bequeath to my wife Ellen, my son Don Thorp, Dean Thorp and my daughter Daisy Thorp, all my property both real and personal, together with all rents and incomes arising therefrom, each to have and own one-fourth equal shares therein. I further will that no part of my real estate be sold or disposed of until 14 years after the making of this my last will and testament.

In case of the death of my son Don, before he arrives at the age of 21 years it is my will that his interest and estate in my property descend and vest in the three surviving beneficiaries in this will mentioned, in equal proportions.

I will the piano to my daughter Daisy, and I will that my son Don Thorp have the privilege of using said piano should he so desire.

I hereby nominate and appoint my wife Ellen, guardian of my son Don Thorp, until he arrives at the age of twenty-one years.

I desire that no appraisement and no sale of my personal property be made and that the Court of Probate direct the omission of the same in pursuance of the Statutes. I do hereby revoke all formal wills by me made.

In Testimony Hereof, I, here-un-to set my hand and seal this first day of August in the year 1894. Lucien G. Thorp.

Child of Lucien G. and Louisa Thorp, No. A-2. First marriage. The Eighth Generation.

A-10. Martha.

Children of Lucien G. and Charlotte Thorp, No. A-2. Second marriage.

A-11. Dean.

A-12. Daisy, born at Akron, Ohio, July 5, 1874; marr. F. A. Clapsadel, June 1, 1898.

Child of Lucien G. and Ellen Thorp, No. A-2. Third marriage.

A-13. Don B. born at Akron, Ohio, July 27, 1892; married Marian A. Reed, at Akron, Ohio, Oct. 23, 1915. His wife born January 29, 1897, at Miles City, Mont.

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